



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010

No. 23

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, high above all yet in all, we thank You for Your steadfast love and faithfulness. Do mighty things through the labors of our lawmakers, using them to accomplish Your work on Earth. Lord, provide them with faith to confront perplexities and to remain unwearied, even during monotonous seasons. Keep them strong as they face life's demands and may they never let go of their dreams.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, February 23, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators able to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The Republicans will control the first half, the majority the second half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message on H.R. 2847, which is the legislative vehicle for the jobs bill. Postcloture debate time expires shortly after midnight tonight.

I am hopeful and confident we can work out a reasonable time to vote on this; otherwise, we have to do it late tonight or very early in the morning.

Later today, I will ask unanimous consent for a 30-day extension of expiring tax provisions, including unemployment insurance, COBRA, flood insurance, and a number of other important issues. I hope we can clear that request later tonight or this afternoon. Senators, of course, will be notified if there are any votes scheduled.

Again, we have to finish this jobs bill we are on. We are going to move, as I explained last night, to the Travel Promotion Act, and then we are going to move to the big package I described a little earlier, which is so important to do. We will have to do the tax extenders, unemployment insurance extension for a reasonable period of time, along with COBRA. We are going to take a look at FMAP as something that needs to be done. We will discuss that in more detail when we get the timelines defined.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

### HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, as we meet here in Washington this week, unemployment continues to hover around 10 percent. Tens of millions of Americans are struggling to make ends meet. The national debt is at a staggering all-time high. In response to all this, the administration wants lawmakers to go down to the White House to talk about a health care bill Americans have already rejected resoundingly. The American people thought the debate on this approach to reform was over. They issued their verdict on the substance of the Democratic bills and the process that was used to force them on the public. Yet here we are, once again, being told by the White House we have to consider the same health care bills that caused such a backlash across the country in December. Democrats either aren't listening to the American people or they are going down the same road they have gone down again and again over the past year: put a bill together behind closed doors and then try to force it through Congress along a party-line vote and ultimately onto a public that doesn't want it.

Americans don't want to be told what is best for them. They call the shots. What they are telling lawmakers in Washington to do on health care is to stop and start over. They want us to put the old bills on the shelf, pull out

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S677